

In order, however, to assimilate this paper with those which have preceded it, I would record the following conclusions:—

1. Steel wine is a very useful auxiliary in the treatment of a considerable number of consumptive patients.

2. It seldom disagrees, but tends rather to increase the appetite, and improve digestion.

3. It is especially valuable in the cases of children and young persons.—*Med. Times and Gaz.*, Dec. 14, 1861.

17. *External Application of Iodine to Remove Plastic Exudations in Pleurisy.*—M. DELIOUX uses, for the removal of plastic exudations following pleurisy, frictions with an ointment composed of iodine, two parts; iodide of potassium, eight parts; and lard, thirty parts. The skin being made perfectly clean, friction with this ointment must be made over the affected part for five minutes every morning and evening; a layer of cotton-wadding is then applied, and covered by oiled silk, the whole being secured by a bandage round the body. The application produces more or less cutaneous irritation; and, where this is severe, the remedy must be discontinued—but for as short a time as possible. M. Delieux has employed this treatment with success in a score of cases of intrapleural exudation, some dependent on acute pleurisy, others being instances of a chronic exudative pleurisy. The duration of the treatment has varied from fifteen days to two months: in the acute cases, from fifteen to twenty days have generally been sufficient for the removal of the false membranes. The iodine thus applied is absorbed; M. Delieux and M. Castain found it in the urine.—*Brit. Med. Journ.*, Jan. 4, 1862, from *Bull. Génér. de Thérap.*, 30 Sept. 1861.

18. *Sulphuric Acid Mixture in Diarrhœa.*—DR. ANDREW CLARK highly extols the efficacy of sulphuric acid in diarrhœa. He claims to have cured by it, given in the manner prescribed below, 74 per cent. of cases of diarrhœa within 48 hours.

When the stools are scanty and frequent, the administration of the acid is preceded by a dose of castor oil. When they are abundant and watery, the acid is begun at once: R.—Acid. sulph. aromat. $\mathfrak{m}\text{xx}$; tinct. camph. comp. $\mathfrak{z}\mathfrak{j}$; ætheris chlorici $\mathfrak{m}\text{x}$; spirit. menthæ pip. $\mathfrak{z}\text{ss}$; syrupi rhœados $\mathfrak{z}\mathfrak{j}$; decoct. hæmatos. ad $\mathfrak{z}\mathfrak{j}$.¹ To be given every four, five, or six hours, according to the urgency of the diarrhœa. The object of the aromatics in the formula is the correction of the fecal fermentation which is one of the chief conditions in the production of diarrhœa. In some cases the second or third dose succeeds in checking the disease, and then the patient is troubled for a day or two with pinching pains in various parts of the bowels. These are best relieved by a small dose of castor oil with an aromatic. The acid is rarely successful in advanced phthisical or dysenteric diarrhœa, but it is so in the early stages of these complaints.—*Med. Times and Gaz.*, Jan. 4, 1862.

19. *Podophyllin in Constipation.*—DR. ANDREW CLARK considers no single remedy to be so free from the objections which attach to most laxatives as podophyllin. It is not a specific for constipation, and it is not in all cases free from some of the objections attached to other remedies. But in the great majority of cases of simple constipation, it fulfils the conditions required of a safe and effectual remedy, by operating slowly, easily, and after the manner of Nature.

Podophyllin² is an amorphous resinoid powder, obtained by evaporation from an alcoholic solution of the root of the May apple (*Podophyllum Peltatum*.) In America it is used in ten-grain doses as a cathartic, of similar characters to the resin of jalap; but for use as a natural laxative, the maximum dose is one grain. If more than this is given, it produces griping and loose stools. For most persons a grain is too large a dose. It is better to begin with half-grain doses made into a pill with extract of taraxacum, which must be taken during breakfast, that it may operate next morning after that meal. For the first few days, the

¹ Or, if the mixture is to be kept, some aromatic water.

² Made by Davenport, of Great Russell-street, Bloomsbury.

operation of the drug may be accompanied by a little griping and by unformed stools. Should these continue to the fourth day, administer only quarter-grain doses, and combine them with an equal quantity of ipecacuanha. If after, the drug does not operate in the manner described, it is not likely to prove successful, and had better be relinquished. When the right dose is determined, its use may be continued without fear of injurious consequences; and instead of requiring to be increased, may after a time be diminished without affecting the success of its operation.—*Med. Times and Gaz.*, Jan. 4, 1862.

20. *Oxalate of Cerium in Epilepsy*.—Dr. RAMSKILL has used oxalate of cerium lately at the Hospital for the Epileptic and Paralyzed. He says it has proved serviceable in some cases of epilepsy, having as an aura, or premonitory symptom of the attack, some commotion of the stomach or duodenum evidenced by a feeling of agitation at the epigastrium, accompanied by a sense of sinking, fainting, and disordered movement, but unconnected with palpitation. In three cases, which we shall give shortly, the epilepsy was cured. It has not proved useful in any degree in any other forms of epilepsy, where the premonitory symptoms had relation to the head, as vertigo, confusion, etc., nor to the heart, as palpitation, or feeling of cessation of the heart's action, nor, indeed, to any other variety except in the one mentioned, which seems, he believes, to have its origin in failure of action of the splanchnic ganglia. He thinks that the oxalate acts as a sedative and conservator of nervous force. The sedative action acting on the periphery of the pneumogastric, conveys this influence to the grand centre of excito-motory action, the medulla, and thus not only prevents an impending attack, but diminishes the chance of future fits by lessening morbid excito-motor sensibility.—*Med. Times and Gaz.*, Jan. 4, 1862.

21. *Efficacy of a Combination of Cubebs and Copaiba in some Affections of the Neck of the Bladder and of the Prostatic Part of the Urethra*.—Dr. CAUDMONT has employed cubebs and copaiba in different affections of the neck of the bladder and of the prostatic portion of the urethra, and the results have convinced him that these medicines exert a much more certain action over these parts than over the anterior portion of the urinary canal. In some cases, he administered the copaiba alone, in other cases the cubebs alone; but in general he combines these two drugs, because it appeared to him that the digestive organs were more tolerant of their administration in this form. The morbid conditions in which these medicines are indicated, may be referred to forms of neuralgia or inflammation. The neuralgic cases begin suddenly, without being preceded by any functional disturbance, and the symptoms are immediately very severe; there is frequent desire to make water, severe pain during that process, and especially at its conclusion, and darting pains along the inferior surface of the penis during the intervals of micturition. This neuralgic form occurs in persons who are subject to neuralgia in other parts of the body. The other class of cases presents an inflammatory character, and a few drops of blood are voided at the end of each act of micturition. The greater number of such cases may be referred to a blennorrhœal or rheumatic origin, and the urine deposits gravel, or contains a considerable quantity of mucus or mucus-pus. In all these cases, whether neuralgic or inflammatory, the use of copaiba and cubebs is very successful, and entirely removes the pain in from twenty-four to forty-eight hours. Dr. Caudmont administers these medicines in the form of sugar-plums (*dragées*), each containing forty centigrammes of the mixed cubebs and copaiba (a centigramme is .1543 of a troy grain), and fifteen, eighteen, or twenty-four of these are given every day, according to the intensity of the disease.—*Brit. and For. Med.-Chir. Rev.*, Jan. 1862, from *Bull. Gén. de Thérap.*, July 30, 1861.

22. *Cubebs in Simple Urethritis of Women*.—Prof. TROUSSEAU remarks that simple urethritis is a disease which is tolerably frequent in young girls, but more frequent in married women, and it is characterized by a frequent desire to make water, with severe smarting during micturition, and vesical tenesmus lasting some minutes afterwards. Trousseau has known patients obliged to go to the water-closet ten or fifteen times in an hour, and after having passed a few drops